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First Asian Bishop in The Church of England

Dr. Michael Nazir - Ali, 45, holder of British and Pakistani dual citizenship becomes the first Asian Bishop in the Church of England. He will be the 106th Bishop of Rochester and will succeed Dr. Michael Turnbull, the new Bishop of Durham.

Dr. Nazir - Ali is one who believes that the Third World should supply Missionaries to re-Christianise Britain. "I hope my appointment is a marker for the globalisation of Christianity in this country", Dr. Nazir - Ali said in a recent interview. He served as the General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society. He was very much involved in the preparation for the 1988 Lam-

both Conference which brought together all the Bishops of the Anglican Communion worldwide. He is part of the Anglican delegation in standing talks about visible unity with Rome. He also serves as Secretary of the Earnes Commission which is instrumental in regulating relations between the section of the Anglican Communion which ordain women and those which do not.

Dr Nazir - Ali has said that historically there have been three ways for Christianity to deal with the difficulties posed for it by the rise of Islam Viz; the Western crusading response, the response of Byzantium, which was to heap scorn and abuse on

Islam and the response of those large number of Christians who actually lived in the Islamic World and who helped to create what is called Islamic Civilisation. He says that it is the response of the third group that will help to make a distinction between modern fundamentalism which gives little room for co - existence and the devotion of ordinary Muslims that deserves respect.

Church, Politics And War

The Christian Institute For the study of Religion and Society (CISRS), Chunnakam organised a discussion on the book-"Church, Politics and War-Theologising Contextually Amidst A War" by the Revd. Fr. S. J. Emmanuel, Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Church in Jaffna and the Rector of St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Seminary, Columbuturai at the Mission House, Manipay on Thursday, July 21 st, 1994. Few clergy and Lay People from (Continued on page 4)

Harare - The Venue for WCC's 8th Assembly

Harare was chosen as the site for the WCC's Eighth Assembly in 1988 in the first round of secret ballot. Jonathan Siyachitena, President of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches told that the invitation had been endorsed by the Roman Catholic Bishops and African Independent Churches in Zimbabwe.

The Executive Committee had proposed "Now is the time: repent and rejoice" as Assembly theme. This was later modified as "Now is the time: repent in hope". It is understood that this too failed to persuade enough delegates. A suggestion made that the theme should reflect the biblical motif of "jubilee" is now being carefully considered.

ANNUAL PEACE PRIZE

Elias Chacour, a Melkite priest who is well known for his role in the work towards reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians was awarded the Annual Peace Prize by the World Methodist Council at its meeting in Bombay.

Chacour is the founder of the College of Ibilim, near Nazareth

which has a faculty of Christians, Jews and Muslims. Anwar Sadat, Jimmy Carter and Mikhail Gorbachev are some of the noteworthy recipients of this prize which was instituted in 1977. It is to be noted that Chacour is the first Catholic to receive this award.

Emergency over but action in North and East will continue

"Though the Emergency regulation ceases to operate action will continue against militancy". This opinion was expressed by the Spokesman of the Sri Lankan Security Force. He further told that Army action will continue

without any restrictions. Even in the absence of Emergency Power, the Army is entitled to launch action against terrorism. As such action against Tigers will continue as before. It is understood that the ban imposed ten specific items will also no be lifted up!

The Salvation Army, Jaffna

An Exhibition and Certificate giving ceremony of the 5th Batch of Pre-Schoolers and Trainees in Vocational Education was held on Tuesday, 26th July, 1994 at 9.30 a. m. at the Salvation Army Home & Church, Kaithady. The Rt. Revd. Dr. S. Jebanesan, Bishop in Jaffna, Church of South India and Mrs. Vimala Jebanesan were the Chief Guests.

175th Anniversary

Jaffna Central College will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary in early August this year. The College is elevated as National School with effect from this month.

Half the Babies born in Jaffna District last year died

According to the records in the Jaffna Secretariat, 13491 children were born in Jaffna District last year of which 6019 children died. 54% of the babies born were girls. The continuing war situation, lack of medical

facilities and malnutrition were attributed as causes of the high infant mortality rate.

WEDDING

The Wedding Bells will ring on Saturday, 6th August 1994 at 5.00 p. m. at the Grace United Methodist Church, Fredrick Avenue Gathersburg, Maryland, U. S. A. when Niranjan and Diyana are led to the Altar to be married. Niranjan is a son of Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Gunaratnam who are currently residing in the U. K. and Diyana is the daughter of Mrs. Kamalam Sanders and the Late W. T. Sanders. The Morning Star wishes the couple a happy married life.

Worship Services in English

Jaffna City Mission Church of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India has recently started worship services in English. These services are held on the fourth Sunday of every month at 4.30 p. m. at the City Mission Church Centre, 4th Cross street, Jaffna.



Institute For Lay People

The Christian Theological Seminary of Sri Lanka & Institute for lay people, Chunnakam organizes a programme for lay people of Jaffna District once a month at the Seminary. This programme is called "Theological Education For Christian Commitment and Action (TECCA)". The next session on the theme "SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER" will be held on Saturday, August 27, 1994 at 9.00 a.m.



J. D. C. S. I. - YOUTH SUNDAY

August 14th 1994

THEME: BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS

THE MORNING STAR

Diocesan, Office Vaddukodai 29 07 - 1994

EDITORIAL

'WE DRINK FROM OUR OWN WELLS'

"We Drink From our Own Wells: The Spiritual Journey of a People" is the title of a book written by the Liberation Theologian Gustavo Gutierrez. He said that to drink from one's own well is to live one's life in the Spirit of Jesus as one encounters him in his concrete historical reality.

This title is quite meaningful to our Tamil Community today. The Parliamentary Elections are planned to be held in August. The newspapers carry news of violence and deaths during the election campaigns in the South. The Tamils living in the South and in the so called "liberated areas" have the option to vote. What they must realize is that the elections are not going to make any impact in the lives of the Tamil Community. A Tamil representation in the Sri Lankan Parliament today will not in any way help ease the burdens of our community.

The government has imposed unrealistic and inhuman restriction on the life of our people living in the North. Our experience is just like that of the Israelites under the tyrant Pharaoh. Pharaoh's draconian measures included the demand for compulsory brick-making with out the provision of straw to the oppressed Israelites. Today, we are compelled to carry out our tasks without any necessary supplies. Our students sit for the G. C. E. A/L examinations without any fundamental facilities. Our life goes on in the midst of increasing ferocity and deadly efficacy against us.

So, it is the duty of the Tamils living in the areas where voting is possible to recognize clearly the ways in which their own brethren are bound by hostility, fear, embargo standstill of transport and communications and all other forces of evil. Their voting will not help us. It may help a handful of Tamils living in the South who do not have any kind of experience we undergo in our day-to-day life.

It is said that there are two kinds of temptations to an oppressed community. One is to get satisfied with "incentives" and the other is to become co-opted for the majority cause. The oppressed community must avoid these two snares on their road to freedom.

We have a God-given heritage of Land, culture, uniqueness and identity on our own. It is our duty to assert this fact. What we need today is not a peace that speaks of absence of war or cessation of hostilities, but a peace that is based on justice and recognition of human rights. Our experiences in the past have clearly taught us that the road to genuine peace is through our struggles for human dignity and self-determination. We have become more and more convinced by our struggles that these are necessary to transform the structure that have kept us powerless, exploited and marginalized. Any kind of solution to the ongoing problems must address to the fundamental issues or the root causes of the present conflict. It should answer the aspirations of the Tamil community. The struggles of the Tamil community for freedom represent an assertion of their right to life. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed".

It was John F Kennedy who said that those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable. The oppressed must always look to themselves. Liberation must be from bottom up. Let us not be satisfied with the crumbs that fall from the tables. Let us have a new self-consciousness.

LET US DRINK FROM OUR OWN WELLS!!

DONALD GANESHAKUMAR TROPHY

Donald Ganeshakumar Trophy-Cricket Tournament organised by the Centralites Sports Club was played at Central College grounds from Mid April till 17th July, 1994. 15 teams participated in this tournament.

University of Jaffna Cricket Team and Centralites Club Team entered the Finals. The Revd. D. S. Thiagarajah, an old Centralite (Principal, CTS, Maruthanadam) was the Chief Guest and the awards were given away by Mrs. Thayalini Thiagarajah. The University team defeated Centralites by 04 runs.
Scores: University - 183
Centralites - 179

Annual Convention

A three-day Convention Meetings were held at St James' Church, Nallur during its 166th year celebrations from the 23rd to the 25th July 1994. The Revd. G. D. Anandarajan of the Christian Theological Seminary, Chunnakam was the main speaker on the last two days while the Revd. D. S. Thiagarajah, Principal of the Seminary preached on the first day. Bishop Ambalavanar was the preacher and celebrant of Holy Communion on the Anniversary day.

Church

(Continued from page 1)

Roman Catholic and CSI Churches participated. Mr. A. Kadirgamar, Acting Director, CIRS presided over the meeting. A review of this book will appear in the Morning Star shortly.

Art and Jaffna

(Contd from Last issue)

There is also a playful item—a combination of the story of the Garden of Eden with Indian style and humor. Here there are at least five apples being offered to both Adam and Eve, by a number of snakes writhing around their bodies, in a kind of Carnatic dance of temptation. The apples can scarcely be distinguished from the breasts of Eve, a sly comment on the self-consciousness of sex that this first sin was supposed to have generated.

We of the Church need Mark's example, and we could certainly use more well-trained working artists in our schools. I have been very encouraged these last years in Jaffna to see how our children respond creative opportunities in art. After seeing an exhibition we held at The Levi-Spaulling Boys' Home, the KNH representative got that organization to sponsor a worldwide children's art contest, in which several Sri-Lankan children won prizes. In the Vaddukodai area the Lions Club sponsors contests to encourage the children's creative impulses. And the Diocese of CSI has also sponsored art contests recently.

Through art activity we can both express our feelings about political and economic repression and glorify God by bringing him gifts of beauty that come from within ourselves.

— Dr. Robert G. Porter

Confirmation Services

Uduvil

The Rt. Revd. Dr. S. Jebanesan confirmed 49 candidates as full members at Uduvil at a Confirmation Service held on Sunday, 24th July 1994 at 7.30 a.m. The Revd. Jeyakumaran, Presbyter of Uduvil Church assisted at the service.

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Vaddukodai

The Bishop confirmed 37 Candidates at a Confirmation Service held at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukodai on Sunday, 24th July 1994 at 4.00 p.m. The Revd. A. A. Paul, the Presbyter at the Cathedral Church assisted the Bishop.

Solidarity Fund Regional Committee

A meeting of the Regional Committee of the Solidarity Fund for Theological Education in South Asia was held at the Pegasus Reef Hotel, Wattala on Friday, June 17th, 1994.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Alexander John Mank, Bishop of Lahore, Pakistan. This meeting was attended by the delegates from Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Revd. S. Jebanesan, Revd. Daniel S. Thiagarajah (Principal CTS), Mr. A. Kadirgamar (Acting Director, CIRS) and the Revd. G. D. Anandarajan represented C. S. I. while Revd. Kumara Thangasinghe, Revd. Rex Joseph and Revd. Jeyasiri Peries represented the Theological College of Lanka, Pilmattalawa. The other participants were Bishop Kenneth Fernando, Bishop Azariah of Pakistan and Dr. Judo Poerwawidagdo of the W. C. C.

It is learned that a consultation of this committee will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal in March 1995.

Bishops' Conference

A Conference for the Bishops of the Church of South India, Church of North India and Mar Thoma Church was held on 19th May 1994 at the Ecumenical Christian Centre, Whitefield, Bangalore. Our Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Dr. S. Jebanesan served as the Secretary of this conference. Ways and means of coming together as 'ONE CHURCH' were further explored at this conference.